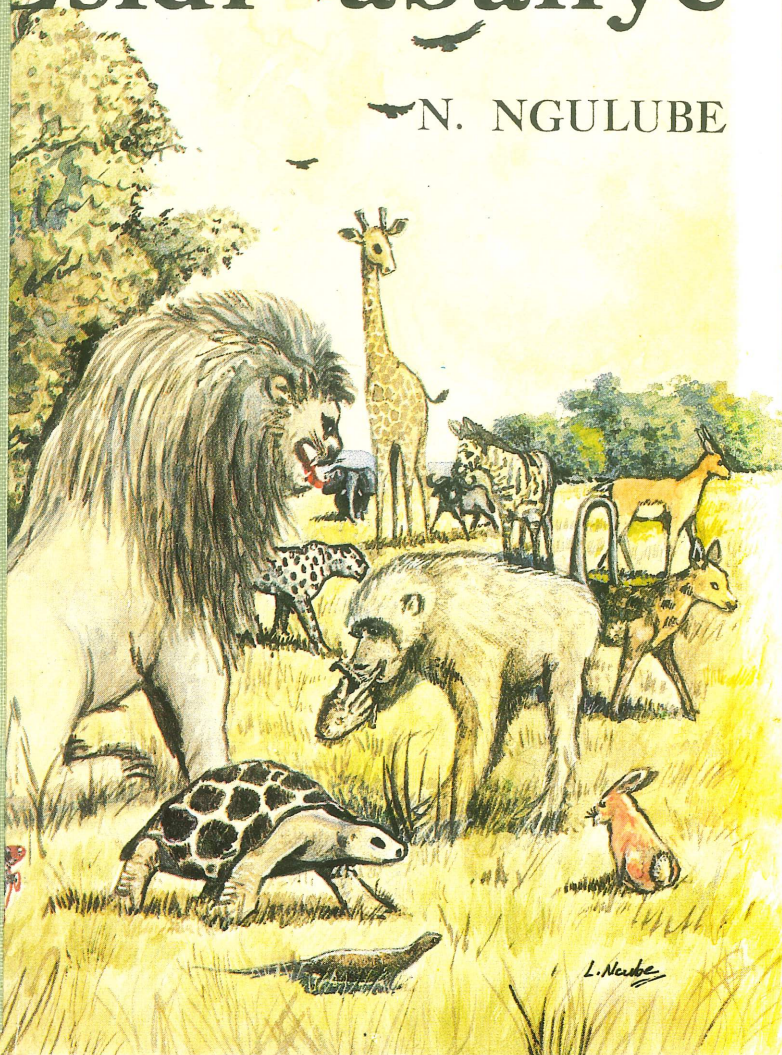


Isiyinga-yinga

Esidl'abanye

N. NGULUBE





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ISIYINGA-YINGA
ESINDL' ABANYE

DANDARO READERS (Ndebele)

Editor: R.F. Mabuza

Language: ndebele

Isiyinga-Yinga
Esindl' Abanye

by N. Ngulube



MAMBO PRESS

MAMBO PRESS

Gweru, P.O. Box 779

Harare, P.O. Box UA 320

Gokomere, P. Bag 9213, Masvingo

ISIYINGA-YINGA ESINDL'ABANYE

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First published 1990

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ISBN O 86922 453 0

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Printed and published in Zimbabwe
by Mambo Press, Senga Road, Gweru
1990

OKUMUNYETHWEYO

PL
8547
N289 N428
1990

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INYAMAZANA EMBI KUZO ZONKE

Isilwane yindoda ethanda ukuhleka nxa ichesile ihlezi lokuyi zinanakazana kweganga.

Kwathi ngeyinye imini isilwane sathi kuzinanakazana ezincane zeganga esasihlezi lazo ngaphansi kwesihlahla esikhulu:

“Akeliye ngidingela inyamazana embi kuzo zonke inyamazana zeganga. Lithi lingayizuza libuye layo kimi lapha lizengitshengisa.”

Phela isilwane sasisazi ukujabulisa okuyizinanakazana kwaso! Sasithi singabona sokungathi kuba lesizungu egumeni laso isilwane sasiqonde ukuthuma lo’la’lo ukwenza lokhu lalokhuya!

Yikho-ke okiyizinanakazana konke kwathi nyamu kanye kwalingena igusu. Akuzange kube lokwesaba ngoba kwakusazi ukuthi usilwane uzabavikela. Bagijima ke ontulo labogwababa labokhanka besiyadinga inyamazana embi kuzo zonke ezeganga. Zalingena igusu lemikhemeswane, umhlalu, uxakuxaku lomthofi lezinye eizithelo ezinengi.

Khono-khonokho kwasekuphendukile okunye kwezinanakazana.

“Nangu owami, Khulu, undwangu!” kutsho untulo eletha usekasiphongwana ngaphansi kwesilwane lezinye intokazana ezazisele zilibazise isilwane.

“Hatshi, mfanyana wami, kawuboni ukuthi ayisibo bubi obukandwangu lobu,” satsho isilwane. “Isiphongo sikandwangu simvikela ukutshisa kwelanga. Hlala lapha phansi kwami ndwang’ omhle!”

Waqotshana undwangu duze lesilwane esemangele ukuthi kwakusenzakalani egangeni la!

Wathutsha ukhanka eqhubana lobhejane uphondo solume mpo lungasanxegi lemi lomo isiwohloka phansi!

“Nangu owami, Khulu,” watsho ukhanka efika enkudleni enkankazela ehleka!

Ubhejane kwamuchonula ukuhleka kukakhanka wamuthi qhwi ngophondo lwakhe wathula zwii ukhanka.

“Ebo-o! mfoka khanka! saklabalala isilwane. “Kawuboni na ukuthi ubhejane nguqalabantubezithulele ethembe ukuzivikela ngophondo lwakhe. Ayisibubi lobu! Hlala lapha phansi kwami bhejane, jak’elihle!”

Wagoqana wazithulisa ezithulela ubhejane phakathi kwezi-nye inyamazana. Ubhejane waye elokhu enyonkoloza ukhanka ecwifa-cwifa! Okunye okuyizinanakazana lakho kwaku lokhe kuzihlekela kubambe imilomo yakho kukhangele kubhejane! Okunye lakho kwakuhlekel’ eceleni! Losilwane laye waphonguthulisa angathi wayengezwa imihlifihlifi yokuhleka yokuyizinanakazana kwakhe.

Kwathi ngemva kwesikhathi eside wathutsha umvundla ephahlwe ngungwenya lomvubu.

“Khuluma phela macalakawapheli,” kwakukhuluma ungwenya eselengise imilomo.

Vele umlomo kangwenya waye ususikh’ isanti chamb’ ethukuthele.

Lomvubu laye yimilomo waye usuvuvuke waba ngaka! Phela kwathi ukutshiswa lilanga, kwayakuthi ukulandelana lomvundla, usiyaz’omdala, engabacasiseli lokubacasisela ukuthi bayangaphi, kulani lukabani!

“Asambeni liyezibonela, madoda,” kwatsho okumahlakani-pheni, “isilwane sitshekel’ endlini.”

Umvubu longwenya babamb’ imilomo sebemangele ngemhlo-
lo ababeyizwa ngomvundla. Bama bakukhangela okumvundla lakho kwama bakhangelani angathi babebukana.

“Weana uzadliwa yisilwane,” watsho ungwenya. “Uthi ulamanga!”

“Pho uthi ayisi mhlolo!” wababaza umvubu elandela umvundla.

Bathe sebekhanya egcekeni kwababona okunye okuyizinanakazana. Bafika lapho okwakubuthene khona ezinye inyamazana.

Umvubu waye esefuthelene izihlathi lezi sezigange mbambayila sokungathi umumethe ilitshe. Amehlo zasezizibhokodo.

Ungwenya laye umlomo waye esewuhudula phansi. Amehlo aye esebomvu gebhu, amazinyo sezi-zisikela, zona inzipho sezi-sika phansi ubaba sibili! sezingathi zinzipho zabathakathi bevela hlinz' abantu!

Wona amaxoloxolo kangwenya aye esevukuhlonzi yikutshisa kwelanga.

Bathi bethi thutshu ungwenya lomvubu zaqamka ukuhleka izinanakazana zikasilwane. Obhejane labondwangu labo babo-botheka bahleka baze bawaphansi bacambalala ngezisu! Isilwane sahleka sawohlok' izinyembezi sanaba sathi thwitshi imbambo sezingasavumi!

"Yibubi bani lobu?"

"Akelibone bantu!"

"Awu, ngwenya!"

"Wu-u, umvubu!"

Umvubu longwenya behluleka ukuthi bangacatsha ngaphi! Bathi bethi mhlaba siginye, umhlaba lawo wathi e, lami ngivimbele, ngivundeke obami ububi emhlabathini la!

Umvundla waye eseqiqika etshanini eselubhuqu lodwa! Umvundla wahleka waze wabanjwa yisihlabo, wazithulisa yedwa.

"Awu mvundla, mvundla!" kwaklabalala okiyizinanakazana kuphakamisa umvundla. Khonapho okuyizinanakazana konke kwase kukhombela kubomvubu longwenya. Umvubu longwenya bebona uhleko lonke lolu bathi lothu kanye bama ngezinyawo. Umvubu wasuka ngesiqhubu elingena iganga. Ungwenya laye waphaphatheka edanzazela elandela umngane wakhe umvubu begonda emfuleni.

"Uzabona umacalakawapheli, umvundla!" wafunga ekhomba phezulu umvubu esecwile esizibeni. "Kawanathi amanz' alo umfula!"

“Kalubeki unyawo lwakhe futhi la,” watsho laye ungwenya esekhanya ngekhanda kuphela esizibeni.

Kuze kube lamhla umvubu longwenya lokhe bahlala emfuleni emanzini behlala becatshile besesaba ukuhleleka! Umvubu uphuma emanzini ebusuku! Ungwenya wenza esokunyenya nxa ephuma emanzini emfuleni. Kandisi njalo ukuvakavakatsha ega-nge-ni.

Lakho okumahlakanipheni, okumvundla, akungeni ezizibeni! Lanxa kunatha amanzi emfuleni kunatha kutshedatsheda kusesaba ukubanjwa yimvubu loba yingwenya!

END

UFUDU WAFUNDA ESE NYONI

Ufudu ngumuntu owaye-kwazi ukulawula kakhulu. Yindoda eyaye ikwazi ukuhleka lokuxoxa labanye kodwa lamhla kwabanengi kuyamangalisa ukuthi ufudu kakhulumi uhamb' ethulisile.

Kwathi ngeyinye imini ngomnyaka wendlala ufudu wethekela umngane wakhe umvundla. Wamfinca sibili umvundla ezihlalele engahlutshwa lutho, ngitsho lendlala ababekhala ngayo ofudu labanye umvundla waye engayazi!

"Mvundl'omdala," watsho ufudu eshlezi egodweni ayeluphiwe ngumvundla. "Mngane wami, mina sengiphelelwe ngama-cebo. Mina lemuli yami sokuphelile okwethu!"

"Sokutheni njalo, fudu?" wabuzisisa umvundla. "Seliqedwa yini-ke fud'omdala?"

"A, indlala isisenza okunye, ndoda," kuphendula ufud'omdala. "Angazi angisakwazi lokwazi ukuthi ngizakuthini, ngizaqondangaphi. Ngizaphetha sengibalekelwa ngumfazi sengi mdala ngingaka!"

Ufudu wanyikinya ikhanda angathi usefuna ukuthi liwele phansi dii. Lomvundla wakhangela umngane wakhe wezwa edabuka ngaphakathi ukuthi oqotho umntu emdala njengo fudu angezwiwa ngezeganga ukuthi ubalekelwe ngumfazi! Umvundla wacabanga okwesikhathi eside. Kwathi ngemva kwesikhathi leso umvundla esebonile ukuthi lamhla ngimficile umamangalela abanye wathi:

"Akubuye ngapha mngane. Uyabona mfoka fudu, kulamasi-mu angaphansi kwentaba laphana..."

"Utsho amasimu ezothamlilo?" wethuka ufudu ebuzisisa.

Ebuzisisa kunjalo ufudu akuzange kuthi qhwi engqondweni yakhe ukubane wake wabamba umvundla emthonjeni wezeganga ezinye inyamazana sezehlulekile zonke. Khona okufudu yikho

okwambambayo ngenofi wasila ngamaqhingaqhinga akhe angapheliyo umvundla: watshayelelwa esilotheni wayiphunyuka!

“Wethuka fud’omdala?!” wahleka umvundla ezibamba ekhahlweni. “Ngifuna ukukunceda wena uyeqa angathi sulixoxo libona inyoka . . . kuthiwa kaleqe ilangabi lomlilo! Ngifuna ukukusiza. Ngilecebo elingakusiza kule indlala okuyo.”

“Mina mvundla yiyo into engayehluleka kudaladala sibili ukuthi ngindle engingakusebenzelanga . . . ngindle ngisindla mahala!”

Ufudu ngumuntu owayethanda ukundla okwezithukuthuku zakhe. Babe sebebanengi abangane bakhe ufudu ababebuya kuye bethi dobha nanti icebo usize imuli yakho, abanye beze labo besithi yenza lokhu kungasiza imuli yakho. Kodwa ufudu wayebona sibili ukuthi amacebo abangane bakhe aye ngamacebo kodwa hatshi ayengamsiza. Ayengamacebo okuthi angawalandela waye ezacina esezondana lizinye inyamazana loma labantu ngokwabo ngoba abanye njengabo ndwangu babethi kaye thumba imbuzi lamazinyane emzini yezothamlilo. Ale abheke phezu ufud’omdala. Waye esala ethi kasoke alandelane lamacebo kamvundla londwangu ababethi mbinjanambinjane sebebanjiwe emasimini abantu!

Umvundla wala elokhu ekhangele ufudu angathi kezwanga into eyaye itshiwo ngufudu.

“Wena vele uligwala lokucina,” watsho umvundla ecwifacwifa elokusola kakhulu phakathi kwelizwi lakhe. Lofudu laye kwamhlaba ukusola kukamvundla.

“Mina, mvundla, ngavela ngabhejela ukufa. Ngazimisela kudala ukuthi angisoke ngayangena emasimini ezothamlilo loma imzini wayiphi inyamazana ngisiyantshontsha. Madoda lingathi ngiyazigqaja kube qha ngilandela engikutshelwa ngumoya wami. Lingathi ngiyisithutha, kube qha ngiyayibona ingozi phakathi kwezindlendlana zenu, wena labondwangu labosayobe. Nxa ngingelakho okwami kangilakho . . .”

“Vele lakanye uyazigqaja makhwati,” waphendula umvundla ezenwaya-nwaya engalweni. “Uzenz’ umuntu olembeko. Uzenza umuntu ongcono kube kanti wena uyahlupheka kawula ngitsho lokuyisitshwandlana kokuvala ugebhezi lwesisu sakho... ngingatsho okwabatnwabakho! Indlala kayila qhawe! Hamba emasimini lawayana, thatha okulisakana kwakho uyedingela abantwana ukundla.”

“Kodwa...”

“Kodwa kodwa ukuthini?” wamethusela ufudu umvundla. “Okungcono yikuphi, umoya wakho kumbe abantwana bakho? Sonke sinje esingena emasimini laphana uthi siyabheda, uthi siyahlanya hi? Pho ubulandeni kimi nxa ungafuni ukuncedwa? Vele ngiyakwazi fud’omdala ucabangel’ elikhatshana njengonwabu!”

Ufudu wema mpo ngezinyawo amehlo esesithi boyiboyi eseswele ukuthi angathini kumvundla. Wazama ukunakana sibili wabona ukuthi ukusiza imuli kunganani. Wabona umvundla eyindoda elengqondo ecijileyo; wabona sibili ukuthi kunganani alahle ibhatshi lokuziphatha kahle lokuba lembeko kwakhe! Wazithonisisa ufudu wabona elecala elikhulu kakhulu. Wayethi angakhumbula isikhathi esase dlule elokhu esala ayekutshelwa ngabanye ukuthi asize imuli, wabona lamhla kungela mehluko ukuyangena lokungayi ngena emasimini ezothamlilo. Lakanye wayalithatha isakana lakhe ufudu watotobisa eqonda emasimini ezothamlilo.

Umvundla wahle waqonda ngakwakhe ethi asazi lapho kuyawela khona induku loxakuxaku ngakofudu!

II

"Baba-lo baba-lo!"

"Baba-lo, baba-lo!"

Abantwana bafika ngekhaya sebekhefuzela bengazenzi. Bathi bekhombela emva amasimini:

"Baba, ufu . . . fu . . .!"

"Liboneni?" wabuzisisa umnt'omdala esondela ebantwaneni bakhe.

"Libone mhlolo bani lize ligijime angathi lizakwephuka inya-wo?"

"Baba, ufudu usengene emasimini!"

"A,a,a akelingizwisise bantu . . . kuyini lokhu?"

"Ufudu umi ngenyawo emasimini. Ulesakana lakhe, baba. Usethusele ebhonyulabhonyula umumbu . . ."

"A,a,a nangu-ke ufud'omdala eganga libalele," watsho umnt'omdala ebiza abanye bakhe. "Heyi Kalakatha loMahluli! zingaphi izinja zami leziyana?"

"Nanziyana esibayeni ziyeza baba . . ."

"Buyani madoda omuzi! Ufudu usefunde esenyoni engena emasimini ngokuphuma kwelanga! inyoni ekhuluma isikhiwa yona iqeda amabel' ethu! Ufudu madod' omuzi, use funde esikamvundla londwangu esemdala engakayana!"

"A, ufudu usexwalile sibili," batsho abanye bedobha intonga zabo. Basebechasiselwe ngokwenziwa ngufudu ensimini lapho okwase kuvela khona abantwana.

"Kuhle ahle afe nya ufudu wenu lowo," atsho amanye amagabazi omlomo.

Amadoda esephethe izintonga ayingena idlela yemasimini. Abantwana basala ngekhaya. Izinja lazo zaphuma engumeni sezimise imsila!

Ufudu waqala wandla wandla, wathi esesizwa esesuthi waqalisa ukuhlohlela umumbu, indlube, imfe lamakhomane esakeni

lakhe. Khonokho ufudu wezwa ukuxokozela kwabantu besiza ensimini. Wathi uyaphakamisa ikhanda wezwa:

“Hiyaa-swaa! kungaphi okuy’intokazana?!”

“Yee, kungaph’ okumaqed’uqethu?”

Wathi uyanyemukula ufudu wabona sezitshinga izinja zezothamlilo sezigxoz’ indenda zingen’ emagwenzini lasetshanini. Ufud’ omadala wabona intonga zindiz’ emoyeni lenkwelu zikhala zivali’ indlebe! Ufud’ omdala wezwa esequqha. Wezwa igazi selingenwe ngumoya oqanda moo!

Kwathi kabaleke ufudu wabona ukuthi akala kuphunyuka, zazingamdobha engakayifika lasethangweni lwensimu ayekuyo. Kwathi kathi hlabathi ngiginye inhlabathi yathi ngisuth’ ingcekeza yomhlaba wonke jikelele! Ufudu wezwa inyembezi sezisela zodwa. Umuntu ongazake abanjwe esiba madoda wahle wakhala njenge ngane encane. Kwakuzwis’ usizi ukubona ufud’ omdala ekhala!

“Pho bengidingani, olukabani emasimini la?” wazibuza ufudu engasazenzi. “Ngavela ngazimisela kudaladala sibili ukuthi angiyi kungena emasimini abantu. Ukuthi angiyi kuthatha lutho lukabani. Pho ngizangena ngaphi?”

Ufud’ omdala wabona ubunyonyo wathi:

“We-e bunyonyo benkosi, akungincede! Sengi welwe yilitshe lengozi. Lamhla ngizafel’ emasimini la. Nampa abantu bengihlasela!”

Ubunyonyo baphakamisa ikhanda ubunyonyo babona abantu benyakezela ensimini. Ubunyonyo bathi kufud’ omdala:

“Kati wena ubuvele udingani lukabani emasimini abantu la?”

“Ungangibuzi!” wakhala ufudu engathi uzakuhlifiza ubunyonyo.

“Zwana wena mahambangendlwane,” batsho ubunyonyo, “goqa inyawana zakho lengalo zakho uzifinyeze zingene egebhezini lwakho . . .”

“Zingangena khonapha bunyonyo babantu?” wababaza ufudu. “Khonapha engehluleka ukunkwana mina nyama yami!”

“Phangisa! Vele wen’ ubusenzani? Thina sikwazi ungayisi sigangi lamhla ubungenwe yini. Tshova einyawo lengalo kungene ophakathi! Phangisa sonkani!”

Ubunyonyo bachaphuka bameqela ufudu. Ubunyonyo bafuqafuqa inyawana lengalo zikafudu buzitshonisa egebhezini.

Ufudu laye waziluma umlobo efinyanisa lobuso eqinisela engenisa inyawo zakhe lengalo ebhokisini lakhe. Wazifinyeza wazifinyeza inyawo lengalo kwakhwana. Wahle wathi fathalala wacambalala ngesisu phansi ufud’omdala.

“Ngenisa ikhanda futhi,” batsho ubunyonyo butshaya ufudu ekhanda.

“A,a, wena, kungenzeka khonokho?” ufudu wakhlabalala enyikinya ikhanda.

“Thula!” ubunyonyo baphendula bubetha ufudu emlonyeni ngempama. “Yenza engikutshela khona!”

“Ungaphi kati lowo fudu-fudu?” ufudu wezwa abantu bebusana eduze laye.

Ufudu waphonguthi walakatha kanye watshona ikhanda lentamo egebhezini lwakhe. Wasala esemi salitshe lapho acambalala khona ufud’omdala!

“Pho sithini, akukho ensimini la?” babuzana abantu sebele-ngise intonga zabo. “Yonke indawo akukho, kungacatshangaphi khonapha?”

Omunye wabantu laba waleqela elibona isaka wathi elivula:

“A,a, besekuvunile sibili okunkabi!”

“Kuyini lokhu?” wabuza omnye laye ehlokoza ufudu.

Esizwa lokhu ufudu wahle woma lamathe emlonyeni, wezwa isisu sesibhuhlungu!

“Yilitshe, kawuboni yini mfowethu!” wephendula omunye eqoqoda ufudu ngentonga yakhe. “Awuzwa kuthi nke-nke-nke, yilitshe qhobo!”

Owaye kubone kuqala okufudu wakukhaba ngenyawo kwathi gwindili khonale njengelitshe likaZamcholo! Basuka bahamba abantu sebethwele isakana likafud'omdala.

"Abantwabakho uthi balamanga sekaNene!" watsho omunye kumnini nsimu.

"Yibo abavune-bavune be-be... uthi bebengaqondanga kuyathengiselana lesigangi esikhulu, esingumvundla? Isaka lonke leli madoda!"

"Thula Mpofu," waphendula umnini nsimu. "Nxa kade beqonde ukwenza leyonto oyitshoyo lamhla bazangibona. Labana abantwana bazaluzwa uswazi lomkhlampunzi ukuthi lumnandi njani ubaba sibili!"

"A,a,a, ngasila madoda!" weqa ufudu ephuma egebhezini lwakhe. Wathutsha ngekhandla angathi ngumuntu okade ecatshele iziwula eguswini eqonde ukuziphanga lokuzikhuthuza imali yazo. "Webunyonyo wangisiza wangisiza ngingathembile! Uyi-ndoda emadodeni! Pho ngingakwenzelani sinini sami? Uthi ngiyakukhuluma; lokh' okwami akukhulunywa! Ngitsho labo-mvundla kabakwazi ukuthi sengungumahambangendlwane ngeqiniso! Umvundla ongiyengileyo ukuzengingene emasimini abantu, into engazimisela kudala ukuthi kangiyenzi!"

"Hawu! uyengwa ngumvundla usumdala ungaka! Akutshiya-ne lomaqhingase loyana! Umvundla kalamthakathi ngabe kudala bakuloya! Umvundla kalamehluli ngabe kudala wafa! Kade kwasa liqhilwa ngumvundla lizahlakanipha nini bofudu! Ungakukhulumi sibili ukuthi usile njani lamhla ngoba ungahle-kwa esikamvubu longwenya uyengena... uyezivalela ebhalwini sisakufuna nje... uyezwa fudu, fud'omdala?"

"Uqinisele sibili," uyaphendula ufudu ekhangele phansi. "Ngingakukhuluma khonokhu futhi! Kodwa yaziphela ukuthi ziwisana ngempondo: lapha kuhlanguka inyathi lenkunzi yangekhaya zithwitshana ziwisane ngempondo. Yikho ungakhohlwa phe-la ukuthi izolo umahlakanipheni lo ngimbambile laphana emtho-

njeni wamanz' enyamazana zeganga. Kusile kancinyane eku-feni!"

"Wo-o, lina liphila ngokuqilana njengobusuku lemini!" bababaza ubunyonyo buzihambela. "Qhubanini madoda, thina kasazi lutho, sizabe silokhe sisizwa ngendumela zenu egangeni la. Kulungile fud'omdala sengihambile."

"Hamba kuhle bunyonyo benkosi!" waphendula ufudu ehamba ngeyakhe indlela.

END

IZIGA KONGUBOYONWABU

Kwakukhona indoda okwakuthiwa nguNguboyonwabu. UNguboyonwabu wayethanda ukuzingela ezingela edingela imuli yakhe ukudla. Amanye amadoda ayedinga aswele ukuthi uNguboyonwabu wayezibamba njani inyamazana ayehlala ebuyalazo.

Phela lindoda yathiwa igama lokuthi Nguboyonwabu ngoba abanengi babomakhelwane babemkhumbulela ukuthi nxa angafika egangeni wayantshintshe umbala lwesikhumba sakhe njengonwabu. Abanengi base bekuvumile ukuthi uNguboyonwabu wayentshintsha-ntshintsha umbala wakhe.

Undoda Nguboyonwabu wayethi angavela zingela afike ngekhaya ethwele inyamazana ayebe eyibulele ingakahlinzwa isesakeni lakhe athi ememeza kumkakhe:

“Qamba-qamba ukuthi ngikuletheleni?”

Umkakhe laye aphume endlini ngesinqubu afike akhangelisise, ahlolisise engabambi isaka likaNguboyonwabu abesezama ukuqamba ukuthi yaye iyinyamazana bani aye eyiphathelwe.

“Yingulube yeganga,” wamemeza umama wangekhaya kwe-linye ilanga. “Yingulube yeganga, yingulube yeganga,” waphinda njalo umama wangekhaya.

“Awu, uthi uyaphoxa,” aphen-dule uNguboyonwabu evula isaka lakhe. “Awuboni, khangel’ ubone!”

“Huu-u!” akhale aze ezwiwe ngomakhelwane umama wangekhaya. “Yimpunzi, mpunzana, yimpunzi!”

“Usubonile phela,” atsho efinyeza amahlombe uNguboyonwabu.

“Awuboni-kee umjimba wezegusu!” akhlabalale umama wangekhaya. Alidobhe isaka eqonda lalo ngendlini.

Ithwalwa nje inyama isiyangekhaya, abantu sebewowozela sebegcwele egumeni njenge mpukane.

“Uthi oledlozi lakhe uyaswela!” batsho abanye abantu.

“Ubujimba kabuntshontshwa,” abanye bakhulume njalo. “Njalo kabuhlalelwa phansi . . .”

“Uqinisile, ubujimba kabuthengwa,” watsho uGwababa indoda eyaye yakhelene loNguboyonwabu.” Ngabe akade sabuthenga kuboNguboyonwabu ngamabele lange nkomo. ONguboyonwabu kabalimi lokulima kodwa. Amabele sibapha yithi besithengisela inyama. Awuboni ukuthi imuli yakhe isutha njani! Mina lamhla kangiyithengi inyama yomuti . . .”

Wasuka uGwababa elandelwa nguNtulo indoda eyayithanda ukuvuma konke ingabuzi lokuzibuza ukuthi okwakutshiwo yikho na. Bathi sebetha bhodiyani uGwababa wathi kuNtulo:

“Ndoda Ntulo, wena kawuboni yini ukuthi kunganani ukuthi siyecatshela uNguboyonwabu egangeni sibone ukuthi uzibamba njani lezi inyamazana azibulalayo.”

“Aa-a, makhelwane,” watsho uNtulo elokusola okukhulu. “Mina ngiyesaba.” UNtulo wanyikinya ikhanda ecabanga. “Awuboni na ukuthi yibugangi obukhulu lobo obutshoyo? Mina ngithi kungabanani ukuthi sikhulume laye undoda Nguboyonwabu ukuthi nxa esithengisela azi ukuba uthengisela omakhelwane.”

“Lokho ngiyakuzwa,” waphendula uGwababa. “Kodwa okungcono yikuphi ukuthi ingabuzane likuthengisele inhlanzi kumbe likutshengise ukuthi inhlanzi zibanjwa njani usuke uye zibambela inhlanzi hatshi ukube uthengiselwa ubanjelwa ngungabuzane ekunyonkoloza ngelihlo lakhe!”

UNtulo wathi: “Kungcono ukufunda into ukuthi uzenzele . . . kodwa sazalwa satshiyana ekwenzeni kwethu. Yikho ngithi into yile. Mina lawe singabalimi abakhulu sibili. Nxa ekwazi ukubamba inyamazana uNguboyonwabu kasimuyekele ayezingela. Abe ngumzingeli ogcweleyo. Kodwa ngiyekuthi kasivumelane laye ukuthi lo’la’lo enze akwaziyo kumbe akukhwanisayo kodwa siyehlangana esiphaleni.”

“Lihle lelo olitshoyo, Ntulo,” waphendula uGwababa engasuthiseki ngempendulo kaNtulo. “Mina ngithi kungabanani uku-

thi wazi ukuthi amanyosi enziwa njani kulokumelela inyosi ukuthi ikuqubele amachaphazi. Yikho ngithi akesizame icebo lami leli. Kungehlula sizazama okunye njalo.”

“Hatshi, Gwababa,” uyaphendula uNtulo. “Kangali, indoda iyaye ivume kodwa layo isike yabeka owayo umkhumbulo. Ngiyavumelana lale into oyitshoyo wena Gwababa owaziyo okulele ngaphansi kwemphande zezihlahla.”

Bavumelana oNtulo loGwababa. Bamelela ilanga okwakuthiwe uNguboyonwabu uzabuyela ngalo egangeni esiya zingela njalo. Yikho lelo langa ayefanele ayethethela abafuyi uNguboyonwabu lafika. UNguboyonwabu wayethi uyathethela abafuyi ngoba wayethi okumenza athole... ajimbe ngabafuyi bezeganga!

“Kodwa mina ngiphuphe kubi,” watsho umka Nguboyonwabu ebambe izihlathi. “Ngiphuphe ngibona uhanqwe ngamaganyane... akudliviza akudliviza... ngabona usubuthelelwe ngamange... ekukhukhuza amathambo... lempisi zabuthana lazo zisidla amathambo akho... phinde kwaphutsha inyon’emnyana ihanqwe liyezi elimnyama... kwakuphela...”

“A, wena lawe,” watsho uNguboyonwabu enganakile amazwi omkakhe. “Into yile. Kawuboni ukuthi ligusu labafuyi engiyangena kilo na! Kulameva, kulezilo lakho konke okubi: konke lokhu ngizakwehlula ngoba kuyabe kuliyezi elimnyami phambili kwami. Ngicina ngisithi: kuzakuba lamaganyane elizawabona esiza ekhaya la, ayabe ethwele isaka lamanga hutshu...!”

Wasuka wahamba uNguboyonwabu. Lomkakhe wasala ebambe umlomo esemangele ngengcazelo kababa walapha ekhaya. Lezinja zakhe zathi ziphuma ekhaya zaphuma ziseqa amagwenzini!

“Nanguyana uyeza,” nguGwababa lowo esitsho kuNtulo owaye elokhu ecambalele ngaphansi kwesihlahla esasikhwelwe nguGwababa.

Weqa uNtulo wathi khalakathakhalatha ekhwela esihlahleni.

“Ngiyambona sibili,” watsho uNtulo esephezulu esihlahleni. “Khangela ubone ukuthi izinja zakhe zilolaka njani! Khangela ukutshitsha kwakhe! Oqotho I’umuntu ngumzingeli ophelele-
yo!”

“Suka lapha, Ntulokazana,” watsho uGwababa esezondile ngokukhuluma kukaNtulo. “Ungamzwela umuntu ogangileyo kanje othengisela omakhelwane inyama angathi uthengisela abantukazana. Nangu uyedlula kasiboni. Kasimlandele Ntulo kababa. Lamhla sizamenza iokungaziwayo I’umuntu!”

Balandela ngemva kukaNguboyonwabu oNtulo loGwababa. Laye ehamba njalo uNguboyonwabu waye elokhu ekhuza okuyinjana kwakhe okucane okwakulokhe kuthi kungagijima kube kulokhe kukhangela emva lapho ababevela khona. Okuyinjana lokhu kwakungathi kule ’nto okwakuyibona ngemva!

“Kwenzani lokhu!” watsho uNguboyonwabu kulokhuya okuyinja kwakhe. “Usufuna ukubuyela ekhaya thina sisanda kusakakhona?”

Wakusikiza okuyinja kwakhe kweqa kungena kwezinye. Le inja uNguboyonwabu yinja aye eyithembile sibili. Yaye ithi inganukisa izwe kulento embi eduzane labo ikhonkothe. Kodwa lamhla uNguboyonwabu kabanga landaba layo loma isenzo sayo linja yakhe. Wayikhuza layo yaze yabona ukuthi ingacina isisiwa phansi ngentonga ingabe eilokhe ikhononda! Akuzange kwafika emoyeni kaNguboyonwabu ukuthi le inja yaye isinuke ingozi eduze!

Kwathi belokhu belandelana loNguboyonwabu oNtulo loGwababa babona izinja zikaNguboyonwabu sezivuse ibhalabhala. Akuzilithathanga mango ibhalabhala lase liwile phansi libhuqwa yizinja zikaNguboyonwabu. UNguboyonwabu kayithwalanga inyamazana le. Wagamula amahlahla wayifihla inyama yakhe waya phambili. Khonokho njalo oNtulo loGwababa babona izinja zika Nguboyonwabu sezivuse impala. Zabalayo zixotshana layo. Zayiwisa ingakayifika lase guswini elaliseduzana khonapho.

UGwababa wathi: "Ee, Ntulo, mina sengisenza okwami. Nxa eseyifihla impala le mina ngithi kasondele eduze sibonise."

"Ye Gwababa," wavuma ngekhandu uNtulo.

Lakanye basondela eduzane behlolisisa ukuthi uNguboyonwabu waye esenzani.

"Uyambona?" kubuza uGwababa.

"Usequthile, usebophele izinja zakhe iesihlahleni!"

"We Ntulo, usesenzani manje?"

"Asisondele sibone Gwababa likababa!"

"A,a, khangela ubone Ntulo! Uguqile, ukhangele phansi. Kuyini akwenzayo? Kuyini akutontisela phansi?"

"Ligwayi Gwababa... awuboni ephethe imfuko yakhe... uyalichithachitha phansi lundoda... yikho ebamba inyamazana ezinengi!"

"Angithi yikho engangikutshela khona usala Ntulo kababa!" watsho uGwababa eseqa yeqa. "Kangithi lamhla sesibonile konke."

"Usezikhulula izinja zakhe Gwababa... nanku kusiza ngapha okunye kwezinja zakhe... sokusibonile... sithini? chela phela ngomthi wakho womlomo ongahlalwa mpukane ziphel' amandla izinja lezi zingaka silumi!"

"Ungethuki Ntulo... kudala ngiqedile ngazo lez' izinja. Nangu laye usesibonile laye uNguboyonwabu. Nangu uyeza enyikinya ikhanda... Mayee seyen' indaba Ntulo..."

"Futhi ukubaligwababa lakho bakithi... angithi ngakutshela ukuthi asiyekele le into eyangisayo kangaka!"

"Hawu, angathi ngundoda Ntulo loGwababa!" wababaza uNguboyonwabu. "Lidingani emaweni akwethu la? Litheni ukungitshela lize lingicatshela kanje madoda! Lihamba ngesihle na?" UNguboyonwabu waye esekhumbula ngesenzo sokuyi-njana kwakhe wahle wabona mngceke ukuthi uMboneni, yilo igama lokuyinjana kwakhe, kwakubona sibili!

UGwababa wahle wezwa igazi lakhe limalela lokuthi alalele okwakutshiwo nguNguboyonwabu. Wezwa esegcwele inhloni ngesenzo sabo loNtulo. UGwababa wahle wabona sibili ukuthi kwase-kungela eyinye indlela ngaphandle kokubane babulale uNguboyonwabu bazithathele inyama ayeselayo. UGwababa katholanga sikhathi sokuthi kumbe angacasiselana loNtulo aye-kucabanga. UGwababa wayekwazi ngempela ukuthi uNtulo waye engumuntu wakhe, umuntu olandela konke akutsheliweyo.

Yikho uNguboyonwabu esacasisa ngalokho aye kukhum-bula kuyifanelo ukuthi ngabe uNtulo loGwababa bakwenza uGwababa wahle wathi lothu wameqela uNguboyonwabu wamuthi ngxi emphinjeni. Zatshundulana zitsatsalika zonke zawiselana phansi uGwababa loNguboyonwabu. UNtulo waye elokhu emi. Izinja zikaNguboyonwabu lazo zaphonguma angathi lo awayehlaselwa azimazi engumninizo! UGwababa wahlukisa wamhlukisa uNguboyonwabu loNtulo laye weqa wancedisa esesaba phela ukuthi angayekela kungathiwa nguGwababa uligwala. Akula ndoda ethanda akuthiwa iligwala emhlabeni la!

Wathi esifa uNguboyonwabu izinja zakhe zakhonkotha kanye zasuka zilubhekise ekhaya. UNtulo loGwababa badhobha inyamazana impala babuyela lapho okwakutshiywe ibhalabhala nguNguboyonwabu khona. Balithatha ibhalabhala bahamba lalo. Bathi befika ekhaya uNtulo loGwababa babiza bathi:

“Yeyii nakabantwana ngapho ngakoNtulo, ngapho ngakoGwababa! qambani qambani ukuthi sililetheleni!”

Into eyaye ingazake yenziwe nguNguboyonwabu. Lezinja zathi zisizwa ukumemezela lokhu zathi vumbu kanye zamisa indlebe!

Omama bakoNtulo labangakoGwababa baphuma begijima ezindlini. Besegumeni beqa beqa bekhlabalala. Into engazange yenziwe ngakoNguboyonwabu! Bathi befika onakabantwana bathi:

“Yindlovu, yindlovuu-u!”

“Yinyathi, yinyathii-i!”

Phela babezama ukuthi amadoda abo athi bayaziwa bengabazingeli oqotho. Lawo amadoda ajabula esizwa okwakuqanjwa ngomamma bangekhaya labo. Bathi bethi amasaka watshu phansi bewavula kwathi vulukuthululu kuwohloka imchimbicimbi eminengi!

“Hawu, hawu kuyini lokhu sekabantwana!?” wakhala umama wanga koNtulo.

“Yimhlolo hlolo bani le?” wababaza umama wanga koGwababa.

Abantu bonke ababesebebuthene ngakoGwababa bethi lamhla siyitholile etshiphileyo bethuka beqa bayakuma kude le.

“Khangel’ ubone,” latsho elinye ikhehla elase libone iminyaka phansi la. “Akelingiboniseni amanga, isinyeyo, ubugangi, ubuqili lobundlwangundlwangu! Yibubi bani lobu obuphuma emasakeni enu madoda?”

Eqeda ukukhuluma umnt’ Omdala izinza zikaNguboyonwabu zathi kanyekanye ‘Howuuuwoo-o!’ zikhangele egangeni. UmkaNguboyonwabu wathi esiza ewuhlab’ umkhosi: “Maye, babulele uNguboyonwabu, babulele indoda yami-bo-o!”

OGwababa loNtulo balingena igusu! Izinja zathi manga. Zabaxotshanisa kodwa zehluleka ukubamba ngitsho lamunye phakathi kwabo bebobabili!

“Lakanye sazibonake iziga koNguboyonwabu!” wababaza umdala loyana esehlezi phansi angathi unethwe lizulu lensewula. “Kuyini ke lokhu?”

Aye elokhu ekhuluma lumdala ekhangelane lomkaNguboyonwabu.

“Ngamtshela ubaba ukuthi uzakuba yinyama yenyamazana zeganga kangilalelanga!” watsho umkaNguboyonwabu esesula izinyembezi ezasezigcwele izihlathi.

“Into engasiyo yakho kayisiyo yakho,” watsho umdala lowana esukuma. “Alibokhawula madoda!” watsho njalo umdala lowana esuka ebamba umkaNguboyonwabu isandla ehamba laye kwamanaye amanina aye esebuthene egumeni ngakoNguboyonwabu.

Izinja zikaNguboyonwabu zala zilokhe zizula zula egangeni lase enkotheni zidinga oNtulo loGwababa! Kuze kube lamhla lokhuinja loma izinja nxa zingela lapho eziyakhona sezile sizungu ziyaye zibhode enkotheni zixotshana laboNtulo laboGwababa! Lapha kwasukela khona isenzo sezinja lesi!

END

ISIYINGA-YINGA ESINDL' ABANYE

Kwathi ngeyinye imini uNdwangu lompunzi bahlangana egcekeni lasePhupho. Undwangu lompunzi zinyamazana ezazithanda ukunyeya kakhulu. Babethi lapha abahlangana khona ingaqaliswa indaba sebephethe ngegama leyinye inyamazana izihlahla, utshani ngitsho lomoya ngokwawo kwakuhle kume kuthuleke zwi konke sokulalele.

“Phela uyasazi isiyinga-yinga lesiyana esingunhlathu, mpunzi?” undwangu utshonjalo ebambe ekhalweni.

“Hoo-ho-o! lesiyana esimazigoqa njenge nkatha!” ngumpunzi ephendula ngezwi eliphezulu kakhulu. Umpunzi weqayeqa phambili kukandwangu, angathi waye esezwe umlayezelo omhle owaye uvela ekhaya. “Uthi uyake isibone lesi isiyinga-yinga ositshoyo nxa sesisuthi; sicambalala angathi sisuthi umhlaba ngokwawo...”

“Haahahahaha!” yahleka indwangu ihleka ikhombela kumvundla owaye ekhona kodwa ethulisile. Umvundla waye efikile ezevakatshela umpunzi. Wathi efika kule’ndaba le umvundla wahle wazibamb’ umlomo elalela.

Phela laye umvundla waye esekewezwa ngendumela ngobuphoxo buka mpunzi londwangu. Yikho lamhla waye esezizwela ngezakhe indlebe.

“Yekela ngivale owami umlomo,” watsho ezithulela umvundla. “Okwami ngizathapha ngendlebe kuphela.”

“Uthi isiyinga-yinga lesiyana livila elisuka lapha!” umpunzi wakhuluma ehleka. “Wake wayibona inhlathu elimayo? Ngitsho lani ondwangu lanxa kuthiwa liyantshontsha, lanxa kuthiwa liyizanqondo kalizwa, lingcono kulesiyinga-yinga lesi esindla abanye. Into endla ezinye inyamazana! Silesichuku kubi lesi siyinga-yinga! Wake wasibona lapho esindla khona?”

“Hatshi!” kuphendula undwangu. “Ngizwa kuthiwa inhlathu ilolaka olwedlula olwesilwane ngokwaso! Ngangibone ukuhamba kwakhona etshanini, akusikuzidonsa uyihlomkhulu...!”

“Heehehe !ngitsho labovundla begaka inhlathu kayibathathi mango nxa isiqonde ukudla. Iphonguthi goqegoqeliyani, phoqo-phoqo iginye, ndwangu!”

“Mina ngifica kunani ukuthi ngidliwe ngabafayo,” undwangu watsho enyemukula esizwa kulento eyayingathi iyamtinta thinta, kati yena waye ephephethwa ngumoya. Phela ayisibugwala kondwangu la.” “Kati vele sonalesi isiyinga-yinga sizibamba njani inyamazana lezi?”

“A, asazi, mina vele ngizwelakhathana,” uyaphendula umpunzi ngezwi eliphansi. “Angizake ngibone lapho sibamba khona abanye... lesi esimaqul’ayibambe esihamba ngesisu!”

“Kambe wena mpunzi uthi lungayekela njani ukundla ezinye,” ngundwangu ekhangele umvundla, “wayibona ngaphi inyamazana eyehluleka lokugcina imuli. Inyamazana eyehluleka lokufundisa abantwana bayo ukuthi ukundla siziphandela njani egangeni la. Yonke indoda egangeni la iyaziphandela. Into eyehluleka lokuzenwaya! Lokungabantwana kwazini ngezithelo zenganga? Kwazini ngamafuth’ omhlaba? Kwazi wona amafuth’ enyama zabantu okuzindlayo!”

Lomvundla owaye ngafuni lokuhleka waze wawuvula owakhe umlomo eveza okungamazinywana okuncuncuncu okumhlophe!

“Walitsho ilizwi elihlakaniphileyo,” kutsho umpunzi ehleka esiyakuwa phansi ngesiphundu. “Uthi esikubona eguswini lapha mvundla, hahaha!”

Umvundla kwamchonula ukuhleka kukampunzi lomngane wakhe undwangu wasuka wazihambela ethi usake ayedinga intakubomvu lezadenda.

“Awuboni-ke amadoda, ndwangu,” yatsho impunzi umvundla esuka. “Hamba kuhle mngane, ulimuke jak’elidala ungagoqegoqelwa etshanini obude lobuyana!”

Basala baxoxaxoxa ompunzi londwangu. Umvundla waliqonda iganga lenkotha eyayilo lotshani obude. Wathi esephakathi naphakathi kwabo utshani obude umvundla wethuka esizwa ilizwi elathi:

“Hoboyo!”

Weqa, wathalathalaza umvundla. Wabona inkalakatha yenhlathu, umayibabo sibili, imkhangele taa!

“Wembopheni kamabhindlika, wangethusa!” watsho ethithibele umvundla. “Ngidinga wena ngilapha nje...”

“Suka lapha,” yaphendula inhlathu izithi tshombolulukiyani. “Wemvundlana, uthi udinga mina, abanye bayangibalekela, wen’uthi udinga mina?”

Inhlathu yathi nanabu ilanda umvundla wowaye eseqhuqh njengo tshani.

“Hatshi, mbopheni, mkhula wami, angizanga ngobubi,” wakhala umvundla. “Kangiqondanga luth’ olubi kuwe...”

“Ngiya wezwa wonke amazwi obugangi benu lina zinanakazana... yimi engathi ibani ngocakide?”

“Yikho engize ngakho kuwe la...”

“Uthini? uzengitshela emehlweni ngezinto elizikhuluma ngasese ngebizo lami... lamhla kawubuyeli lakho okunga mathanjana kwakho...”

Inhlathu yamuthi ngxii umvundla ngomsila wayo, umvundla kwathi kakhale wezwa lomoya usucitsha wodwa esifubeni.

“Ngithe... ngithe...”

“Uthe kutheni, njani, ngaphi?”

“Umpunzi...”

“Umpunzi?” inhlathu yatsho iyekela umvundla. “Uthini umpunzi?”

Umvundla kazange aphenidule masinyane ngoba waye elokhu esakhokh’ umoya.

“Londwangu...”

“Lwondwangu, isiphoxo esikhulu lesiyana!” yababaza inhlathu ibambe umlomo. “Pho lamhla lithi ibizo lami leselengaphi?”

Lamhla ngilethemba ukubane ibizo lami lisel' etshanini lasemagwenzini! Lihle labhalwa lase moyeni! Bebesithini ke mvundl' omcane?"

"Zwana, mbopheni," waqalisa umvundla esizwa esesibindi. "Labana abantu balomoya omubi . . . kabalunganga . . ."

"Ngani utshonjalo . . .?"

"Mbopheni, amadoda layana abephethe ngawe sibisibili! bathi ulivila uhlala uzigoqile etshanini, kawugcini bantwabakho. Ufundisa imuli yakho ukundla ezinye inyamazana njalo njalo vele kazikhwananga ekhanda lakho la." Umvundla waye esebambe elakhe ikhanda khonapho. "Yikholokho . . ."

"Uqinisili wena maqhingase?" inhlathu yabuza isicwayicwayi-za amehlo isigcwel' ulaka.

Umvundla kwathi kathi a, ngizwe wabona ukuthi usezithele emlilweni kudala.

"Bangakutsho lokho ngenkalakatha yedoda engangami!" inhlathu yatsho.

"Batshilo sibili!" waphendula umvundla. "Vele kabakho khatshana. Bakhonapha egcekeni lakoPhupho la."

"Mvundla, nxa uqinisile kasihambisane siyebabona," yatsho inhlathu ifuqa umvundla ngekhanda.

Umvundla kwathi kale kodwa wabona ukuthi ubesevele wavuthela umlilo wezigodo zembondo wathi lothu ulumela kanye wabona umvundla ukuthi lo umlilo ungeke wacitsha wodwa. Ukuthi ucitshe kufanele ayefika lonhlathu kubompunzi londwangu. Okwakuzakwenzakala khonapho kwakungas' umlandu wakhe!

"Asihambe mbopheni," waphendula umvundla.

Umvundla wahamba esesaba ukuthi uzakuzwa esebanjwe emsileni yisiyinga-yinga sikampunzi londwangu.

"Nampayana, sebevalelisana," watsho umvundla ekhombela kubondwangu. "Uyababona? Nangu umpunzi uyeza ngapha. Esindwangu sesikhwele elitsheni. Ngithini-ke?"

"Catsha wena," yaphendula ihlathu isihwaqile lombala wayo usitshitshile sibili. Lomvundula wamangala ebona ukuntshintsha

kwebala likanhlathu. Umvundla wakhohlwa ngompunzi elokhu ebukela inhlathu yamabalabala.

Impunzi yathi ithi thutshu esthanini obude yathi Ngqi amehlo yabona nansi into emabalabala.

“Kuyini ke lokhu?” yazibuza impunzi isondela eduze. Yanyonyoba impunzi ithi ifuna ukubonisisa. “Kati kuyini khonokhu?” yazibuza njalo impunzi. Kwathi kayibize undwangu yaphinda yathi ngcono ngibonisisa kuqala khona ngizabiza undwangu azebona lesi isimanga.

Impunzi yaye isiphangwe yibutayitayi bombalabala ewonhlathu, amehlo esengasaboni okunye, lengqondo isiphakathi kwala mabalabala . . . khonokhokhonokho impunzi yezwakala:

“Maye-mayemaeeeee!”

Umvundla wethuka wathi lothu nyawo nginceda!

Undwangu wezwa kanye ukuthi ngumpunzi owaye ekhala. Weqa kanye wathi njomonjomonjomo elahl’ umsila phezulu eqonde lapho ezwa kukhala umpunzi.

Wathi efika undwangu wezwaphoqophoqophoqo! wahlawahlala! umpunzi waye esekhalela ngaphakathi emoyeni. Undwangu waswela lecebo aye bangalenza! Khonokho undwangu wabona isiyinga-yinga esingunhlathu sitshombuluka siyekela impunzi eyaye isifile. Weqa undwangu ebona inhlathu ikhothakhotha impunzi owaye esengumwohlohlolo wamathambo esenjenge saka elingela lutho.

Undwangu wezwa umoya wakhe udabuka ngaphakathi ngesenzo sikanhlathu. Ukuthi umuntu angakhotha enye inyamazana isifile! yamangala indwangu ibambe ikhanda ngemva kwegwenzi. Undwangu wezwa inyembezi zisehla zodwa. Kodwa wabona ukuthi wayengela ayengakwenza phambili kukamambidlika unhlath’omdala!

Khonokho esacabanga undwangu wabona isiyinga-yinga isesingunhlathu sidobha impunzi ngomlomo siyithi gamthigamthi siyiginya gwilikidi, impunzi iwela esiswini . . .

Indwangu yabamb’ umlomo isimangele!

“Yikudla bani lokhu!” yatsho indwangu izibuza. “Ngitsho lesihwaba sakuqala lesokucina sengeke senza lokhu!”

Indwangu yathi ibona inhlathu isizinanabula isisuthi phela njalo isisithi isisiyadinga umthunzi wokuya phumulela khona undwangu wathi lothu, ulamanga usundle yena lowo omdlileyo! yathi simpikili iphum’ enkotheni indwangu! Yaginjima yayiqonda intaba indwangu. Indwangu yayikhwela ingasaboni intaba.

Indwangu isikhonale phezulu kwentaba yakhangela ngaphansi kwentaba ithi kumbe ingabona inhlathu iyilandela yabona utshani busiwa buwiswa ngumoya. Indwangu kayisuthisekanga uku-thi waye ungumoya owaye uvuvutha, indwangu yathi yinhlathu!

Undwangu kababa wahle wabhejela ukuhlala entabeni. Wathi gingehla ngidliwe! Indwangu yakhwezw’ entabeni ngamanga lesinyeyo!

END

INDWANGU ITHI NGIFUNDILE NGIFUNDILE

Indwangu kwasuka kwayihlupha sibili okwenziwa ngunhlath' nkulu kumngane wakhe umpunzi. Indwangu ephezulu kwentaba khonale wacabanga ukuthi angabuyisela njani ukubulawa aye-kwenzelwe umpunzi.

Phela wonke umuntu engethuselwa kanye kunzima ukuthi abuyele kuyonaleyo ndawo laphe ethuselwe khona. Kwabanjalo lakundwangu. Indwangu yesaba lokuthi yehle entabeni ngokwesaba ukuthi ingahlangana lonhlath'nkulu. Ekhonale entabeni undwangu lo wafunda ukudla ofezeya ababetholakala ematshe-ni.

Indwangu yahle yakubona kusobala ukuthi angenza okokudlala ngonhlathu laye angacina esengene indlela yabafayo! Kodwa kunjalo wabona elokulicebana. Ngalesi isikhathi inja yaye isihlala labantu. Undwangu lenja besahlala bonke egangeni kabazange bake balwe ngitsho ilanga elilodwa. Yikho Indwangu ke lamhla yacabanga lukuthi iyevakatshela inja. Into eyabonwa yindwangu yile: abantu babesesatshwa kakhulu zinyamazana zenganga zonke. Yikho indwangu yabona lilicebo ielihle ukuyaxoxa lenja eyincenga ukuthi abantu baye bulala inhlatu.

Yahamba indwangu yayafika emzini wezothamlilo.

"Sakubona njankulu," indwangu iyabingelela inja eyayibuthene emthunzini.

"Sakubona makempesi," iyaphendula inja. "Lamhla uzufike ngapha kutheni?"

"Ungabona indoda iziletha emzini weyinye indoda ukwazi ukuthi ithwele ilitshelwano elisindayo ehlombe," yaphendula indwangu.

"Pho uthwele litshe bani?" yabuza inja.

"Uyabona sinini sami," yatsho indwangu, "kulondoda nhla-

thu'nkulu egangeni la. L'undoda ubulele umpunzi engelacala lecala lodwa . . ."

"A, esinhlatu sibulele umpunzi!" wakhala owakonja evula oumlomo. "Uthi isiyinga yinga lesiyana. Kangithi iviki eliphelileyo sibulele injana yakoMpunzana, lo umdala ohlala ngaphansi kwechibi okunatha khona inkomo . . ."

"A,a,anjakababa," watsho undwangu, "kangila mathe ngila . . ."

"Inhlathu kayiqalwa, ilolaka lombani wezulu . . ."

"Kodwa lololaka ngelokuthi umuntu aphongusukelana lomunye ezidlela . . ."

"Kati manje ubusithi kuthiweni makempesi?"

"Mina bengithi ngingakhuluma lawe ukubonane labantu bakhola," yaphendula indwangu. "Bake bangizamele icebo . . ."

"Ummm! kangikholwa ukuthi bangavuma . . ."

"Akuzame sinini sami . . . ungalelikhatshana. Phela mina ungibona nginje kangisayilubeka etshanini olwami iunyawo . . . nginceda sinini sami."

"Inja yasuka yayacebisa izothamlilo ezazibuthene ngaphansi kwesihlahla zibudla bona obamabele!

"Uthini nja yethu?" zabuza izothamlilo zisizwa okwakutshiwo yinja. "Undwangu, kayisikho okuyisiphonxwana lokhuyana okundlalela ePhupho?"

"Yikho sibili," wavuma omunye esukuma ekhangela lapho okwaku lendwangu khona. "Yikho okusanqondo ngokwakho okuqed' uxakuxaku egangeni le!"

"Lami ngiyakubona," yatsh' eyinye indoda ende sibili. "Ngikubona ngesiphongwana . . . khangela iukuzenwaya angathi kulentwala . . ."

"Kulunywa lunywa yibuqili lobugqogqo okwabufundiswa ngumvundla . . ."

"Lamhla ke lapha kuzithelile," yatsho indod' enkulu isukuma. "Kuthi siyeqalana lonhlathu, insikabayitshiye yomhlaba engaqalwayo . . ."

“Kati angithi savumelana mhla inhlathu yabulala injana ka-Mpunzana ukuthi oyabe efuna ukuyabulalana lenhlathu ngokwakhe lenhlathu leyo bebobabili!”

“Hatshi bantu!” yakhuzainja isisizwa ukukhuluma kwezothamlilo ukuthi kwase kungaqondanga kulamula indwangu. “Kati angithi umuntu uyayatshele ukuthi singeke sakungceda ndoda dlulelaphambili?”

“Sukabo, nja” zatsho izothamlilo angathi zasezifuna ukundlainja.

“Madoda undwangu katshaywe afunde ukuthi akulanyulwa, akulanyulelwa umuntu ngokubulala eny’ inyamazana kuphela...”

“Uqinisile... singamtsheli angathi siyamzonda... siyamfundisa...”

Basukuma abantu beyiqonda indwangu. Layo indwangu ibona besiza yathi awuboni ke nja-ka-baba eyazi ukukhuluma okungen’ endlebeni zamadoda!

Indwangu yakhangela yabona izagila ezazithwelwa yizothamlilo yabona ke ukuthi sokusiya nhlatshele ingoma yombhulo wokufa! Yakhangela igusu elaliphahle imizi yezothamlilo indwangu yabona izihlahla eziluhlazatshoko. Kwakungasi zihlahla kuleindawo. Phela izothamlilo zazingaka gangi kakhulu ngokugamula izihlahla. Khonokho indwangu yezwa:

“Hiya swaa-a!”

Weqa undwangu kababa ebona izinja zimqonda amazinyo esengcekeni. Indwangu yahle yabona ukuthi lapha sokuqonde ukundliwa yona! Indwangu yeqa yathi kwesukwesu esihlahleni esasiseduzane layo. Belokhu betshotshozela izinja abantu bonke bema sebebona indwangu iseqa isuka kulesi isihlahla isiya jithika kulesiyana esinye! Yahamba yahamba indwangu isenza njalo.

“Kwenzani okumakempesi...?”

“Akelibone bantu...!”

“Khangela...”

Bababaza babambi imlomo abantu indwangu yahamba yatsho-lobela. Indwangu yaze yayakuma isikhatshana lemizi yezothamlilo. Yanyemukula yabona imizi yezothamlilo isikhatshana khonale. Kodwa yathi ikhangela ngetshonalanga indwangu yabona amasimu ezothamlilo. Yayingayisi mabele emasimini la! Amabele ayekhanya umuntu ekhatshana khonale!

Imi njalo indwangu kwafika okuyi nyoni okuncane okudidi kwathi:

“Ukhangeleni khonale khatshana wendwang’omdala?”

Undwangu wathi:

“Wena nyon’ encane, ulesibindi yini ngikuthume?”

“Vele isibindi yiso esingcelwe kimi phakathi la!”

“Hamba emizini yezothamlilo ngale, ungafika khona ubacacisele labana abantu ukuthi indwangu ithe ngifundile ngifundile . . . ngifikile ngizekhala, kalingilalelanga . . . lingijikele into nga langikhutha ngemkhonto . . . langixotshanisa . . . Mina sengizangena emasimini enu lifuna loma lingafuni . . . lizafunda nje nge gwayi . . . lizazibonela njengegwayi lamakhala elihlala lilitimfimi emakhaleni!”

“Yikholokho kuphela?” kwabuza okudiidi.

“Yikholokho sonyongwane wami,” yatsho indwangu isuka ilubhekise emasimini abantu.

“Ngeke ngabulawa yindlala ukundla kukhona,” indwangu yahamba ikhuluma yondwa. Kuze kube lamhla indwangu yaqalisa ukungena emasimini ethu. Ungalalela uzayizwa lapha ehamba khona ithi ho ho, ho, ikhuluma yodwa iqhuba abantwabayo phambili isisiya bafundisa esenhlathu engalimiyo!

Inyon’ encane yafika yathi kuzothamlilo:

“Bakwethu, bakwethu ngithunyiwe!”

“Uthunyweni, uthunywa ngubani onganani?” zatsho izothamlilo ezinye.

“Selidakiwe . . . kuhlonipheni nokuyinyonyana lokhu!”

“Ngithe ngithunyiwe . . . undwangu kamakempesi uthi ngifikile ngizekhala langixotsha lifun’ ukungibulala . . . eangisela la-

pho ngizaqonda khona... angilsela lapho ngizadingela khona ukundla... yikho lina likwazi ukuthi seliza lima lilimela leyami imuli!"

Izothamlilo zakhangelana emehlweni. Esinye isidakwa sasukuma salidobha ilitshe sakujikijela okudiidi.

"Suka lapha! Kuyahlola okuchikilichane kwenyoni!"

Okudidi kweqa kwathi kuhamba:

"Isalakutshelwa sibonwa ngomopho... futhi indwangu ithe: lizazibonela njengegwayi lamakhala!"

"Lizwile ke madoda? Sokuhambile okudididi... umthunywa kalamponje... sizabon' okukhulu emasimini la!" latsho ixegu laselidobha isikali sotshwala sabuthi kwilikidikwikidiki libhija. "Senginathela lomnyaka ozayo. Asikwazi ukuthi indwangu iqopheni!"

Yikho ke kwaphelela khona indaba yendwangu. Thina lamhla siyazi ukuthi indwangu yaye iqond' ulutho. Nanku kayisuki emasimini, singaze silinde okunganani indwangu iyangena izeshuzha emasimini ethu!

END

UDUBO NGOLWETHU SONKE

"Kanti mama wangekhaya," nguMoyo owayekhuluma emi emnyango. "Sithini ngamawuwu lamangundwane la agcwele endlini la?"

"A-a, bakithi," waphendula umama walapha ekhaya. "Uthi mina sengehlulekile, udubo ngolwethu sonke lolu."

"Phela lamhla ngikuphathele ongachelachela ngakho endlini la," uyaphendula uMoyo. "Njalo ngikuphathele ikhabathi entsha. Uyibonile phela?"

"Yee, ngiyibonile sibili," uyaphendula umama wangekhaya. "Uthuli luzake luthi yemu iemiganwini yami. Lakho ngizabona ukuthi kuzakwenzani okungamawuwu lokunga mangundwane. Asazi ukuba lomuthi owutshoyo uzanceda na!"

Amawuwu lamangundwane kusizwa konke lokhu okwakutshiwo lapha ekhaya kwathi khwilikithi kuwisa ibhodlela lamagabha emsamo kuphuma endlini kubaleka kusiaphandle.

"Uzwile phela wuwu?" ingundwane latshonjalo seliqotsheme likhangelane lewuwu. "Uzizwele ngezakho indlebe!"

"Ngizwile sibili," latsho iwuwu livula impiko. "Kodwa akwe- thusi. Sesiphunyuke kwezinengi ingozi. Kungcono wena ngundwane ukusale lapha, thina siphindele khona endlini siyehlola iukubane yinto bani ikhabathi!"

Amawuwu amabili abuyela endlini afica umama walapha ekhaya esekhiyile lokukhiya indlu wahamba esiya vakatsha.

"Useyetshela abanye bakhe omama ukuthi lamhla uthengile ikhabathi," latsho ilinye lamawuwu selimi phezulu kwekhabathi. "Kabayiwa phela abantu labo ngokulawula mhla betholile okwa- bo. Kodwa thina sizamulungisa!"

"Futhi kawusi moy' omubi lumama lo!" latsho elinye lama- wuwu lihleka. "Uthi wena umuntu angathela abanye ngamanzi atshisayo! Uthi siphila ngani? Silimangaphi thina?"

“Thula wena, khangela phakathi,” latsho elinye iwuwu liqhweba omunye walo. “Kula matamatisi lapha, asebekwe abekwa eminganinwi.”

Amawuwu awangenela amatamatisi ewantshompolantshompolasala amatamatisi eselezikhewu wonke! Lawe ngiyakholwa ukuthi uyazi ukuthi andlakubi njani amawuwu nxa eseqonde ulutho lwawo! Adla aze adla lesinkwa esasibekwe phakathi kwekhabathi.

“Nanti impompo lapha mngane!” labiza elinye iwuwu. “Ali-vuthiwe!”

“Mina kangila mazinyo,” laphendula elinye iwuwu. “Kasi-thsiyele ingundwane okunye lizezibonisela lalo!”

Amawuwu abuyela phandle imilomo isithonta amatamatisi lezinkwa.

“Ngundwane likababa,” atsho amawuwu efika kungundwane. “Ayisikundla ekhabathini leyana! Uthi uMoyo uthenge isitolo sonke!”

“Liqinisile?” labuza ingundwane likhothakhotha imilomo yalo.

“Ndoda, hamba uyezibonela lawe; uzibonisele lawe. Akekho umama wethu!”

“Kuzathanda ubhokoze isikhala,” latsho elinye iwuwu. “Wena umkhulu, ungeke wangena ekhabathini laphayana.”

Lahamba ingundwane lafika lezwa uqhatshi lwezibilibocho phakathi ekhabathini ingundwane laphosa laziluma ulimi selidabulana lekhabathi. Ingundwane labhokoza ikhabathi ngemva lapho labona khona ukuthi umama walapha ekhaya waye engasozabone masinya khona. Hatshi ukuhlakanipha kwezinanakazana batayi! Ingundwane ladla okwamalanga lincedisana lamawuwu ukudla idhobi, amampompo lokunye kwezinto lezi izithiwa ngezifele mlonyeni. Konke phela vele kudla kukhafulela khonapho okudlele khona. Umama walapha ekhaya kwamchonula ukwenza kwamangundwane lamawuwu wabiza abantwabakhe wathi:

"Liyabona lina bantwanyana, liyabona na ukuthi amawuwu lamangundwane enzani endlini la? Udubo ngolwethu sonke... amabhuku enu ayadhatshulwa! Uthi ukungafundanga njenge-wuwu! Umuntu angakuthethisa ethi kawufundanga njenge ngundwane uyabe ekubulele sibili! Lingaswela ngitsho lokulicebo elinga kwenza na ukuthi like lingisize kulol' udubo lwamangundwane lamawuwu!"

"A, mama," baphendula abantwana. "Thina sasithi kumbe lawe ulozwelo njengabanye esasibezwe bethi lingabi lesihluku ezinanakazaneni!"

"A, lina bantwana, lingatsho lokutsho sibili!" watsho umama wabo ebambe umlomo. "Amabhuku adabuke kanje? Lakho amatitsha akhathesi kawasatshayi!"

"Silawo amacebo okuzama ukuqeda lokhu okuyizinto," batsho abantwana.

"Yenzani elikukhwanisayo!" watsho unina wabo engasakhathele.

Waye esezonde waphelela umama walapha ekhaya. Lomuthi owaye ewuphiwe nguMoyo kwabangathi yiwo owawubiza amawuwu lamangundwane ngoba kwathi kusukela mhlana ewusebenzisayo ahle agcwala angathi waye efafaze ngomuthi wokubiza umbizabiza kanye!

Abafana balapha ekhaya bayithatha eimjibila yabo bayifaka emsamo langemva kwekhabathi ngoba babesebebonile ukuthi lapho kungena ngakho ingundwane ekhabathini. Amawuwu bayawazuzela umuthi owawunuka okwedhuk' elifileyo!

"A,a,a, yeyi, madoda," akhala eabaza amawuwu. "Nampa abantu sebevuk' ulutho! Ingundwane libanjiwe!"

"Yee, sikuzwile," aphenndula amanye amawuwu. "Lifile sibili ingundwane likababa! Nangu umpethu uyeza engijima! Sokutheni mpethu?"

"Selibanjiwe elinye njalo ingundwane! Uthi umjibila wabantwana laba kawula muthi wombizabiza?"

“Mina sengihitshwa madoda!” latsho elinye iwuwu libamb’ amakhala seligijima lidinga umnyango. Laphuma limpampazela iwuwu angathi yinkukhu isiqhunywe ikhanda!

“Uthi ulomoy’ omubi lumama lo,” latsho elinye lalo iwuwu lilandelana laleliyana elakuqala. “Usefundise abantwabakhe ulunya sibili!”

Afa amawuwu ebulawa yintuthu yomuthi owaye uchelwe endlini lapha. Afa amangundwane, ebanjwa ngumjibila wabafana balapha ekhaya!

“Safa saphela sikhangele madoda!” ababaza amawuwu esephandle komuzi kaMoyo. “Kunganani sibaleke sithuthe mado-da.”

“Ye, uqinisile,” avumangekhanda njengo ntulo amangundwane aye esesele!

Kwahamba langa linye okungamawuwu lokungamangundwane, kwanyamalala kwaphuma kwaphela ekhaya likaMoyo. Uku-
thi kwayangena ngaphi, akula owakudingayo konke lokhu. Uma-
ma walapha ekhaya wahlekelela esithi:

“Lamhla ngaphumula, udubo lwami luphelile! Lol’ udubo bosolungolwami langa phuma langa tshona! Lingincedile bafanyana bami! Akula muntu ongahlala lezinto ieziludubo kanje, into ezilo moy’ omubi kanje, into eziqonde ukunxabanisa izakhamuzi zithethe, zithethwe zihlezi ngesihle!”

END

ZISIZE NGENDLELA EQONDILEYO

“Uthi uyake unanzelele nje, dada?” ngukiti ekhuluma ebambe iqholo. “Ngitsho ngesenzo sikaMazenzisa ebhutsha la!”

Ukit’ omdala lodada babehlezi ekhulusini lesiphala bexoxa ngendaba zomhlaba lempilo. Amadoda la aye esejwayele ukukhuluma bexoxa ngendaba zekhaya. Yikho bexoxa lapha udada kungathi kezwisisi indaba kakit’ omdala.

“Uyabona, kit’ omdala,” utshonjalo udada esesula umlomo wakhe ngemva kokutshompolatshompola edakeni. “Mina kangiyizwisisi le indaba yakho ukuthi uthini ngoMazenzisa. Uthi uMazenzisa wase esilakeni yakoMasaka uyaya antshontshe inyama ayifake . . . ayifihle ngaphi, njani?”

“Hawu, dada, wena udaba ngokuthi umuntu angakusiza kanye kawusa khumbuli ukuthi angaphinde enze intw’ enhle . . . kumbe embi. Kawuzwa engikutshela khona ngoba ingqondo yakho isezibungwini lezi ozidobha edakeni la . . .”

“Hawu kit’ omdala, usungithethisa . . .”

“Angikuthethisi,” uya mngama ukit’ omdala engakaqedi ukukhuluma udada. “Phela lami uyangazi ngingasaleli, sengizama lami ukuthi ngizisize njengoMazenzisa. Sengangena umsebenzi ebhutsha lapha koMasakeni!”

“Yebo!” watsho udada ebamb’ umlomo. “Vele wena ungumazisisikezela. Nanku uMazenzisa kazange anxotshwe emsebenzini. Sizayicela ivuthiwe ndoda. Usuzokhel’ umlilo ekhanda, kit’ omdala!”

Udada uyasuka ezihambela evakavakatsha.

Ukit’ omdla uyahamba hamba ekhuluma yedwa:

“Uthi isithutha laso lesi iesingudada! Asikwazi ukuzidingela ezifel’ emlonyeni. Lokhe wambaqhanga edakeni lasemachibini wake wadlani olumnandi! Mina ngikholwa ngokuzisiza.”

“Heyi wena, kiti,” ukit’ omdala uyezwa ebizwa. “Umsebenzi kawubalekelwa. Buyangapha!”

“Ngিয়েza Masakeni!” watsho ukit’ omdala egijima. “Uthi abantu abahlala bephethe igazi ukuhlupha! lengqondo zabo kakisathathi kuhle! Ngizamulungisa uMasakeni. Wathi enxotsha uMazenzisa wayethi usethole mina sigqili sakhe.”

“Zwana kit’ omdala,” watsho uMasakeni eqongosela, “hambisa inyama le ezindlini lezi ezibhalwe lapha ephepheni leli.”

Ukiti walithatha ephetshana likaMasakeni wama ekhangele ebona inyama ithuthelwa ebhayisikilini lakhe. Ukiti walithatha ibhayisikili lakhe ethi bhode lendlu. Esengemva kwendlu ukiti wanyemukula wabona uMasakeni esengene ebhutsha. Ukit’ omdala waphenduka weyamisa ibhayisikili lakhe emdulini wendlu. Wathi thalathala wabona eyedwa waliqonda ibhini. Wathi efika ebhinini leliya walivula wadobha iphasulu eyayigoqelwe ngephepha wayithi phosiyani ebasikilini lakhe. Wasuka njalo wahamba, esehambela phambili ngomsebenzi wakhe.

* * *

“Usukuzwile yini, dada?”

“Ngisizwani, madlel’ egwaceni?” latsho idada libuza umkhombazane.

“Ingudwane lingitshela eyinye inkalakatha yendaba...”

“Indaba enjengani, enganani?”

“Ingundwane lithi ukit’ omdala ubotshiwe, dada...”

“A,a,a, maamo-o!” lakhala lababaza idada. “Kuthiwa sokutheni nyonikababa?”

“Bathi ukit’ omdala ubesefunde esikaMazenzisa ukuntsho-ntsha inyama!”

"A,a, uthi ugangile l'umuntu!" latsho idada. "Ngavela ngezwa ngenkulumo yakhe ukit' omdala ngelinye uilanga sixoxa nje sisodwa. Ngahle ngabona sibili ukuthi ukit' omdala kasoze asebenze amalanga amangaki koMasakeni la. Indoda ibanjwa yimjibila yayo. Bathi kuthiwa waye esenzani, njani la-kuphi?"

"Buya siye ngakungundwane yen' owazi konke okwenzakalayo!"

Bahamba umkhombazane sebeqhubana lodada bayafika ngakongundwane.

"Woza ngundwane likababa ucasisele udada ukuthi ukit' omdala wenze na njani... zimenze njani iziga zomhlaba."

"A, madoda," laphendula ingundwane. "Kadesatsho thina abanye sathi akelizise madoda ngendlela eqondileyo nxa liqonde ukuzisiza! Futhi lakho ukuba legazi elibi njenge ngundwane..."

"Sokutheni njalo, mazambani?" kutsho idada likhangele ingundwane emehlweni.

Ingundwane lalo laseseliqotsheme phambili kukadada lomkhombazane.

"Futhi yisimanga," latsho ingundwane. "Mina lalihlala lingihleka lithi ngizafel' amafufu... ngabayingoma yabantu bonke! Ngangisitsho lokutsho ngithi uki' omdala nguyi oseqhede uchago ekhaya la! Labomama bangekhaya bangihlasele ngemphini langamaphini angathi bengibathethisile! Amacala wonke lawo eye esetheswa mina! engilegazi lesikhova!"

"Lithi ubesenzanjani umfoka kiti?" labuza idada selizondile.

"Zwana dada," laphendula ingundwane. "Usakhumbula ngikutshela ukuthi kulendoda esebenza emoteni ethwala ingcekeza yamabhini lapha? Ngithi ngangiyibona l' indoda ithi ingatshayisa sonke isikhathi idlule khonapha koMasakeni; idlul' idhobha inyama eyabe ifihlwe ebhini lapha!"

"Woo-o! ye, into kaMazenzisa kanye!" latsho idada liseqayeqa. "Ngiyakhumbula sibili ungitshela into enjalo. Ukit' omda-

la ngamtshela ngathi ungabolingisela abaziyo, wathi ngiyabhe-
da!”

“Yibugangi bani kelobo,” watsho umkhombazane.

“Asazi ntandane kababa, mkhombazane, ukit’ omdala wayethi ekuseni besagezisa ebhutsha ahle alidobhe iqatha aliphosela lapho azikhona yena . . . kwesinye isikhathi, ngingathi isikhathi esinengi waye eyifihla ngaphansi kwesihwayohwayo sokuyi mota okwafayo ukungemva kwebhutsha likaMasakeni. Nxa engakukhipanga okungumkhehlekehle okwafayo lokhu uzavuma ngekhandu uMasakeni. Okiti labobhululu bakhe uzabe elokhu ebangenisa imisebenzi, bona bazabe bebona isikhala sokwenza ubugangi babo! Kuthi nxa esesiya hambisa inyama ezindlini athathe iqhatha lakhe leliyana ahambe lalo ephathela abaziyo abalamazinyo athanda inyama . . .”

“Phakathi kwalabo ayebathengisela kwenzakala ukuthi bavusana,” latsho ingundwane. “Yikho ngizwa kuthiwa zaxhophana zamangalelana kuMasakeni!”

“Umasakeni wawabiza amapholisa!” watsho umkhombazane unyikinya ikhanda.

“Ukhuluma ngokubothswa kod ’okhu!” lababaza ingundwane. “Usegwetshiwe. Ukit’ omdala usesentolongweni . . .”

“Kanti lowo ongamtshoyo ngundwane owamangalela ukit’ omdala ngubani?” labuza idada lithanda ukuthi lizwisise.

“Kanti wena kawukwazi ukuthi ukithi wamangalelwa yinja?” latsho ingundwane likhangelene ledada. “Inja layo vele ithanda ukuzazisa kakhulu, kumbe . . .”

“Kumbe layo yaye ithembe ukudhobha iqhathat . . . ukuphoselwa iqhathang uMasakeni.”

“Uthi ukuba yinja, mkhombazane,” latsho idada lindiyandiya libhodabhoda.

“Inja ithi,” latsho ingundwane lizenwayanwaya, “zisila ngokuhobana amathambo! Inja kayilahlanga umoya wayo lowana oweganga, yikho phela yavuma ukuba lipholisa lalapha ekhaya!”

“Uqinisile sibili ngundwane,” latsho idada lihamba. “Kodwa

sithi zisizeni ngamacebo aqondileyo loma lingaze liqhobane amathambo!”

“Uqinisile dada,” watsho umkhombazane uphapha uzihambele.

“Zwana wena madanxazela,” kutsho ingundwane libiza udada, “ungazidonsi nxa uhamba...”

“Ngathi akelingithathe samuntu lami, lingabe lokhu lingeyisa...”

“Ngithi ngikulum’ indlebe,” latsho ingundwane lisondela kudada. “Ukiti uthi angaphuma ejele kabuyi ekhaya la, uzahle angene igusu, abe ligola... uzalidhobha ngamunye -ngamunye liphele ekhaya la!”

“A,a,a, wena ngundwane likababa,” laphendula idada. “Thina yithi esitheni? Kabonane loMasakeni... lenja leyo eyamtshiyisa umsebenzi... yena vele waye entshontshelani?”

Ingandwane lanyikinya ikhanda lazihambele. Kuzekube lalamhla okiti bayaye baphume ekhaya besiya kuba ngamagola! Idada liyakwazi lokhu, kodwa akulagola elibamba idada manga-manga!

END





N. Ngulube was born in Guinea fowl near Gweru and grew up in the Kwekwe District. He went to St Mary's in Silobela and St Martin's in Amaveni. He then went to Amaveni Secondary School up to 'O' level. He started writing in 1965. He had an English poem published in 1981. So far he has had several poems and short stories published and has also contributed poems to two Ndebele anthologies. He is a member of the Children's Literature Foundation.

Isiyinga-yinga Esidl' Abanye lezinye inganekwane eziyisithupha ezigoqelwe kulolugwalo zindaba eziqondene labancane njalo ziphethe ngokufundisa ubuntu lanxa inyamazana zeganga ziyizo eziphakathi komdlalo.

Abadala, ikakhulu abasafundayo ukubala, zingabancedha njengoba zizakuthi ubunandi lokuqondisa imichabango yethu.

Isiyinga-yinga Esidl' Abanye and the other six short stories is a work intended for the young children. Even though the actors are animals, the deeds and goodly advice contained therein teach a lot about life in general.

It is anticipated that adults, especially those involved in Adult Literacy lessons will benefit immensely including in perfecting their reading.

